

(continued from previous page)

in half a century, be, not only as extinct as the dodo, but completely wrong according to the standards which will then rule. There can be no absolute authority for right or wrong. Therefore the best procedure for those who fear for the future of the arts should be to ensure that the "younger fry," as Isobel Andrews suggests, are not left in ignorance of the present accepted best in music, art and literature.

E. W. de ROO (Gore).

Sir,—Does not Priestley's contention that there is a new form of democracy which professes to believe that the ordinary man or woman is the best judge of everything ring true? Is it not true that a nation deserves the government it elects? But does it follow that the ordinary man or woman is the best judge? Do we need reminding that the Germans elected Hitler! Would those who oppose Mr. Priestley subscribe to the "give the public what it wants" slogan? It would certainly appeal to those of us whose business instincts are the ruling instincts. In other words, doesn't it all boil down to this: Is it right to encourage people to think what they wish? Wouldn't a University student have to dump all that, cultivate an open mind and seek truth? Yet the great bulk of us are invited to pander to that free style, easy going part of us. Is there not in all of us, buried deep somewhere, "that other part which is only properly at home in Heaven"? Surely flattering them, keeping them good-humoured to get their money is a very poor state of affairs. Has life nothing better to offer? Did I hear anyone say spiritual starvation? In the world of expedient materialism Mr. Priestley speaks to very good purpose.

N. F. JACKSON (Christchurch).

Sir, — Priestley's statement showed such apparent ignorance of democracy that I took no interest in the discussion; but the two comments by librarians interested me. "No library may make an effort to canalise opinions of its readers" one of them said, but no attention seems to be paid by libraries to the fact that the opinions of their readers may be canalised before they enter the library. And what exactly does E. H. McCormick mean when he says: "It is essential, however, that librarians should safeguard the rights of the serious reading public and do what they can to prevent the confusion of standards that is a more serious menace than a liking for the obvious and unequivocally bad."

While recognising that the present classification used in libraries is the most efficient for the staff (though I always receive a shock when I find psychology classified under philosophy), it might be as well if authorities realised it was not the most helpful to the common reader and that it is incumbent upon them to break down the air-tight divisions. Years of library use have made me see readers as imprisoned to certain narrow grooves of reading because of an over-strict classification that is necessary for the working of a large centralised library.

READER (Dunedin).

Sir,—If your correspondent Max Bollinger really believes that farm hands and the rest of the culturally backward read inferior books because they have so little choice, he might explain why a bookseller in the centre of a large farming district finds that intelligent and

SHORTWAVE HIGHLIGHTS

The Armed Forces Radio Service

THE Armed Forces Radio Service is nowadays primarily designed for the entertainment of troops in Japan and the Far East, but civilian listeners will find many of its programmes both entertaining and informative. During the afternoon best reception will be had in the 19 and 16-metre bands and in the evening in the 25 and 31-metre bands.

Frequencies, wavelengths and times of transmission of stations that are on the air at the same time as our own broadcasting stations: — KRHO, 17.80 mc/s, 16.85 metres (1.30-4.30 p.m.); KNBI, 17.85, 16.81 (1.30-4.30); KCBF, 21.74, 13.78 (1.30-4.30); KWIX, 15.29, 19.62 (1.30-3.0); KCBA, 9.75, 30.77 (9.0-10.30); KWID, 11.90, 25.21 (7.0-11.30); KGEX, 17.88, 16.80 (3.15-8.45); KGEI, 15.13, 19.83 (6.30-8.45); KCBF, 9.70, 30.93 (9.0-10.30).

Headlines in the programmes: 1.30-2.0 p.m.—Jack Benny (Sunday), Fred Allin (Monday), Bob Hope (Tuesday), Fibber McGee (Wednesday), Bing Crosby (Thursday); 2.5-2.15—Spotlight Bands (Sunday to Saturday); 2.30-3.0—Concert Hall (Sunday), Show Time (Monday), Command Performance (Wednesday), Jill's Juke Box (Saturday); 5.15-5.30 — Boxing (Saturday); 5.45-6.0 — Harvest of Stars (Sunday), Boxing (Saturday); 6.30-6.45—Concert Hall (Sunday), Show Time (Monday), To the Rear March (Tuesday), Command Performance (Wednesday), Jubilee (Friday); 6.45-7.0—Sunday Serenade, Sports Round-Up (Monday), Hoagy Carmichael (Saturday); 8.15-8.45—Charlie McCarthy (Sunday), Ginny Simms (Monday), Red Skelton (Tuesday), Fred Allin (Wednesday), Frank Sinatra (Thursday), Dinah Shore (Friday), Duffy's Tavern (Saturday); 8.45-9.0 — Dick Haymes (Sunday), Personal Album (Monday), Spotlight Bands (Friday and Saturday); 9.5-9.15—Sports Page (Sunday to Saturday); 9.15-9.45—Jack Benny (Sunday), Fred Allin (Monday), Bob Hope (Tuesday), Fibber McGee (Wednesday), Bing Crosby (Thursday), Hit Parade (Saturday), 11.15-11.30 — Supper Club (Sunday to Saturday).

Any alterations or additions are announced in the conference period at 8.5 p.m.

ably written books are often left on the shelves.

Mr. Bollinger tells us to study what is being done for culture in Czechoslovakia. This is what a writer in the *Saturday Review of Literature* found on a recent visit there:

1. The best known Czech authors have published nothing recently. The literary scene is dominated by reporters and journalists.
2. Among the foreign novelists, the Americans enjoy the greatest popularity even to the extent that a communist paper has spoken of "a dark plot" and "a boycott of Russian literature."
3. The Czech Government has recently given permission to a publisher to spend fifty thousand American dollars for the Czech rights of eight of Louis Bromfield's novels—money that could be better spent on reconstruction.
4. While most theatres run political and contemporary Czech plays, *The Man Who Came to Dinner* sold out for more than five months.

Is this what Mr. Bollinger means by "culture?"

"SUBURBIA" (Wellington).



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